

Regulations Methods and Devices

- Game fish may be caught with only hook and line, fly rod, casting rod, pole and line or hand line. Not more than 2 of these devices may be used by any fisherman at the same time, except when fishing in a boat. An unlimited number of lawful fishing devices may be used if every occupant of the boat (who would normally be required to have a fishing license) possesses a valid fishing license.

- Bows and arrows for taking nongame fish only and cast nets for catching nongame bait fish may be in possession while fishing for game fish. Possession of cast nets is prohibited in Game Zone 1 except on Lake Keowee, Hartwell and Twelve Mile Creek.

- Game fish may be used as bait to catch fish but must be included in daily bag limit.

Seasons - No closed freshwater game fish season except in the following areas:

- All watercraft and fishing are prohibited Nov. 1 through Feb. 28 on Cantey Bay, Black Bottom and Savannah Branch in Lake Marion.

- Portions of Howard, Corbin and Devil's Fork Creeks in Oconee County are closed to fishing from Nov. 1--Mar. 30, and a portion of Thompson River in Oconee County is closed to fishing from Nov. 1--Mar. 30. Closed sections will be marked with signs.

- Hatchery WMA on Lake Moultrie is closed to fishing each Sat. until 12:00 noon and all day the last Sat. of the waterfowl season.

Prohibited Practices

- Game or nongame fish may not be attracted or taken by explosives, electrical devices, poison or similar means.

Selling and Importing

- No freshwater game fish may be sold in this state except: 1) DNR permitted aquaculturist. 2) DNR wholesale aquaculture license. 3) DNR aquaculture game fish retail license. 4) Private pond owner selling less than \$2,500 in product annually.

- It is illegal to possess, import or sell any fish species that is not native to SC waters without a SCDNR permit.

- Sterile grass carp must be sold, purchased or possessed by SCDNR permitted vendors only.

Game Fish

- A total of 40 game fish may be kept in any one day. This total shall not exceed more than the limits or exceptions listed below.

- Special limits and regulations apply to DNR managed lakes. See chart on page 18.

- Check with State Parks, City Reservoirs or County Parks for special limits and regulations that apply to those areas.

Blue Catfish

No more than one blue catfish over 36-inches can be taken from Lakes Marion and Moultrie in one day.

Black bass (Largemouth, Smallmouth, Redeye & Spotted)

Limit: 10 fish combined total per day, except Slade's Lake, total of not more than 2 Largemouth bass per day and not more than 15 fish combined total per day. It is illegal to harvest largemouth bass in Lake Wallace, Marlboro County.

Size: 12-inch minimum for largemouth bass on Slade's Lake, Lakes Wylie, Marion, Moultrie, and the Georgia waters of the Savannah River and all its reservoirs.

Striped bass and/or hybrids

Limit: 10 fish per day (See exceptions.)

Size limit & exceptions: 5 fish per day and 21-inch minimum size limit in the following areas:

- 1) Broad River from the lock and dam of the Columbia Canal to its confluence with lower Saluda River;

- 2) Saluda River from Lake Greenwood Dam to Lake Murray;

- 3) Lake Murray;

- 4) Lower Saluda river from the Lake Murray Dam to its confluence with Broad River;

- 5) Wateree River from the Lake Wateree Dam to its confluence with Congaree River;

- 6) Congaree River from the confluence of Broad and Lower Saluda rivers to its confluence with Wateree River;

- 7) Lake Marion, Lake Moultrie, and the Diversion Canal;

- 8) the Tailrace Canal from Pinopolis Dam to Cooper River;

- 9) the east and west branches of Cooper River downstream to the US Highway 17 bridge;

- 10) Wando River;

- 11) the Rediversion Canal;

- 12) Santee River from the lake Marion Dam downstream to the Intracoastal Waterway.

Creel limit exceptions:

- Lakes Marion, Moultrie, Murray and Congaree River from Gervais Street Bridge seaward, during July and Aug., two of the five striped bass creel limit may be less than 21 inches.

In the Savannah River and its tributaries and distributaries and the lands immediately adjacent to them from the J. Strom Thurmond Lake dam downstream to the mouth of the Savannah River Defined by a line from Jones Island, S. C. (also known as Oysterbed Island) point at N. 32° 02' W. 80° 53'; across Cockspur Island, "Georgia, point at N. 32° 01' W. 80° 52" to Lazaretto Creek, Georgia, point at 32° 01' W. 80° 52". - Unlawful to possess more than 2 striped bass, striped bass hybrids, white bass, or any combination of these species. Any lawfully possessed

fish of each of these species must be a minimum of 27 inches.

Cold water trout

Limit: 10 fish per day, 10 in possession. (See exceptions.)

Creel limit exceptions:

- Saluda River - not more than five trout may be taken in any one day from that portion of the lower Saluda River between the Lake Murray Dam and the confluence of the Broad River.

- Chattooga River (SC Hwy 28 upstream to Reid Creek), and Cheohee Creek (SC Forestry Commission property) - 0 trout per day, 0 in possession (catch and release only) from Nov. 1 through May 14.

- Chattooga River (except SC Hwy 28 upstream to Reid Creek), Lakes Tugaloo, Yonah and Hartwell, Lake Hartwell Tailwater and Lake Russell - 8 trout per day, 8 in possession.

- Whitewater River in Oconee County, Eastatoe River (Heritage Preserve lands) in Pickens County, Middle Saluda River (lower foot bridge at Jones Gap Park upstream to Hwy 276), and Matthews Creek (upstream of Caesar's Head State Park) in Greenville County - 7 trout per day, 7 in possession.

- Middle Saluda River (Hugh Smith Road upstream to lower foot bridge at Jones Gap State Park) - 0 trout per day, 0 in possession (catch and release year round).

- Lake Jocassee - 5 trout per day, 5 in possession.

Size limit & exceptions: No size limit, except Lake Jocassee, 15-inch minimum.

Bait/tackle restrictions:

- Artificial lures and bait can be used when fishing for trout. (See exceptions.)

Bait/tackle exceptions:

- Matthews Creek (from lower boundary of Caesar's Head State Park) and Middle Saluda River (Jones Gap State Park lower foot bridge to Hwy 276) in Greenville County, Eastatoe River (Heritage Preserve lands) in Pickens County and Whitewater River in Oconee County - Artificial lures only.

- Lake Jocassee - It is unlawful to fish with corn, cheese, fish eggs or imitations of them as bait on Lake Jocassee.

- Chattooga River from SC 28 upstream to Reid (Big) Creek and Cheohee Creek within the property boundary of Piedmont Forestry Center (as posted) between Nov. 1 and May 14 only artificial lures with single hook may be used.

- Middle Saluda River (Hugh Smith Rd. to the lower foot bridge at Jones Gap State Park), artificial lures with single hook (no treble hooks).

Seasons:

- Cold water trout can be fished for year-round. (See exceptions.)

Season exceptions:

- Howard Creek (from Corbin Creek upstream to Limberpole Creek), Corbin Creek (from Howard Creek upstream to SC 130), and Devils Fork Creek in Oconee County are closed to fishing from Nov. 1 through Mar. 30.

- Chattooga River from SC 28 upstream to

Reid (Big) Creek and Cheohee Creek within the property boundary of Piedmont Forestry Center (as posted). All coldwater trout caught between Nov. 1 and May 14 must be released and cannot be harvested.

- Middle Saluda River (catch and release area) open for fishing only on Mon., Wed., and Sat. during daylight hours with a special daily permit obtained on-site.

- Cheohee Creek (Forestry Center lands) open to fishing only on Mon., Wed., and Sat. from November 1 through May 14 and June 15 through June 22 of each year during daylight hours.

Crappie, bream (including bluegill, flier, redbreast, warmouth, pumpkinseed and redear, longear and spotted sunfish), white bass, chain pickerel or jackfish, redfin pike, yellow perch, white perch, walleye and sauger

Limit: 30 fish per day. (See exceptions.)

Creel limit exceptions:

- Walleye and sauger - 8 fish per day on Lake Tugaloo, Yonah, Hartwell, Russell, Thurmond and the Chattooga River.

Freshwater/Saltwater Dividing Line

The dividing line between saltwater and freshwater on the rivers listed is defined in this section, and all waters of the rivers and their tributaries, streams, and estuaries lying seaward of the dividing lines are considered saltwaters, and all waters lying landward or upstream from all dividing lines are considered freshwaters for purposes of licensing and regulating commercial and recreational fishing. Except as otherwise provided below, the saltwater/freshwater dividing line is U.S. Hwy. 17:

- 1) On Savannah River the dividing line is the abandoned Seaboard Railroad track bed located approximately one and three-fourths miles upstream from the U.S. Hwy. 17A bridge.
- 2) Wright River is salt water for its entire length.
- 3) On Ashepoo River the dividing line is the old Seaboard Railroad track bed.
- 4) On New River the dividing line is at Cook's Landing.
- 5) Wallace River, Rantowles Creek, Long Branch Creek, and Shem Creek are saltwater for their entire lengths.
- 6) On Edisto River the dividing line is the abandoned Seaboard Railroad track bed near Matthews Canal Cut.
- 7) On Ashley River the dividing line is the confluence of Popper Dam Creek directly across from Magnolia Gardens.
- 8) On Cooper River the dividing line is the seaward shoreline of Old Back River at the confluence of Old Back River downstream from Bushy Park Reservoir.
- 9) Wando River is saltwater for its entire length.
- 10) On the Intracoastal Waterway in Horry County the dividing line is the bridge across the Intracoastal Waterway at the intersection of S.C. Hwy. 9 and U.S. Hwy. 17.

SCDNR Managed State Lakes

Lake*	County	Acres	Open Days	Boat/Motor	Creel/Size Limits <i>Catfish</i>	Creel/Size Limits <i>Bass</i>	Creel/Size Limits <i>Bream</i>	Minnows Allowed	Boat Ramp	Fishing Pier	Handicap Access
Ashwood	Lee	75	All Days	7.5 H.P.	3	3	20	Yes	X	X	X
Bonneau Ferry WMA**	Berkeley	100	W, Sat, Sun*** Mar. 2 - Oct. 31	Electric Only	No Limit	2	10	Yes	X		
Edgar Brown	Barnwell	100	All Days	10 HP (Gas) North of Hospital Rd east- ward. Any size south of Rd.	3	3 (16" minimum)	20	Yes	X	X	X
Cherokee	Cherokee	50	All Days	Electric Only	3	5	25	No	X	X	X
Dargans Pond	Darlington	50	W & Sat. (Mar.1 - Sept. 30)	Electric Only	3	3 (16" minimum) (2 bass may be under the size limit)	20	Yes	X	X	X
John D. Long	Union	80	All Days	Electric Only	3	3	20	No	X	X	X
Edwin Johnson	Spartanburg	40	All Days	Electric Only	3	3 (16" minimum)	20	No	X		
Jonesville	Union	35	M,W,Sat.	Electric Only	3	3 (12" minimum)	20	No	X	X	X
Lancaster Resv.	Lancaster	62	Thur & Sat	Electric Only	3	2 (16" minimum)	20	no	X		
Mountain Lake 1	Chester	42	Tue, Thur, Sat., Sun	Electric Only	3	1 (16" minimum)	10 larger than 5". No limit on fish under 5", but state limits apply.	No	X	X	X
Mountain Lake 2	Chester	10	Tue, Thur, Sat., Sun	Electric Only	3	1 (16" minimum)	10 larger than 5". No limit on fish under 5", but state limits apply.	No		X	X
Oak Grove	Greenville	18	W & Sat.	Electric Only	3	3 (12" minimum)	20	No			
Oliphant	Chester	40	M,W,Sat	Electric Only	3	3 (14" minimum)	20	No	X	X	X
Star Fort Pond	Greenwood	27	W,Fri,Sat. Apr. 1 --Nov. 1	Electric Only	3	3 (12" minimum)	20	No		X	X
Thicketty	Cherokee	100	All Days	6 HP (Gas)	No Limit	10	25	Yes	X		
Paul Wallace	Marlboro	280	All Days	10 HP (Gas)	3	0 (No harvesting)	20	No	X	X	X
George Warren	Hampton	400	All Days	10 HP (Gas)	3	3	20	Yes	X	X	X
Webb Center**	Hampton	7&10	All Days***	Electric Only	No Limit	10	30	Yes			
Sunrise	Lancaster	25	M,W,Sat	Electric Only	3	2 (16" minimum)	20	No	X		
Draper WMA***	York	1, 2 & 5	Wed-Mon.	No	3	3 (14" minimum)	15	No			

* The days each impoundment is open can change. Contact your nearest SCDNR office to determine the open days of an individual lake.

** Webb Center and Bonneau Ferry Lakes are closed on deer hunting days. Bonneau Ferry closed Saturdays in April until 11:00 AM.

*** Combined daily creel limits from all ponds. Adult/youth fishing only on Bonneau Ferry. Each youth must be accompanied by no more than two adults 18 years of age or older.

Nongame Freshwater Fishing

General Information

Nongame fishing permits and tags may be purchased from SCDNR only. Application may be obtained at www.dnr.sc.gov or by calling 803-734-3833.

Nongame fishing permits and tags are required, in addition to a valid South Carolina state fishing license (also applies to youth under 16), to use the following devices for recreational purposes: up to 3 trotlines with not more than 150 hooks, 3 to 50 set hooks, 3 to 50 jugs, up to 2 traps, 1 hoop net, 1 gill net no more than 200 yards in length or 5 gill nets, none of which exceed 30 yards in length, 1 skimbrow net, 1 seine, 1 minnow seine, or up to 2 eel pots.

This requirement applies to all freshwaters of the state inland of the saltwater-freshwater dividing lines, except privately-owned ponds.

Nongame fishing devices are not allowed in certain waters. The maximum number of devices allowed per area are shown in the Areas & Limits Section on page 21.

A tag must be attached to the device for which it was issued, and each permit and tag identification receipt must be in the licensee's possession while engaging in the activity.

Game fish must be immediately released if caught by net or trap or any other device used for catching nongame fish.

Commercial Fishing

A commercial freshwater fishing license must be in possession to take catfish by any method from public waters and sell or offer for sale such catfish, and/or fish with the following nongame fishing devices: 2 or more gill nets (or 5 gill nets not more than 30 ft. in length), 2 or more hoop nets, 3 or more traps, trotlines with a combined total of 151 hooks or more, or 3 or more eel pots.

All persons involved in commercial catfish fishing must have a commercial freshwater fishing license if they participate in any way in the actual fishing operation. This includes, but is not limited to, operating a boat, baiting hooks, removing fish from lines, traps or nets. No more than one blue catfish over 36-inches can be taken from Lakes Marion and Moultrie in one day.

To qualify for a resident commercial freshwater fishing license, one must have been a resident of this state for the past 12 consecutive months and furnish proof to the SCDNR.

Shad/Herring

To take shad for recreational purposes by hook and line, cast net, or skim bow net in freshwaters a person must have a freshwater fishing license. For other allowances and restrictions, see page 26. Commercial fishing for shad and herring in

freshwaters including for sale as bait and by use of gill nets is regulated under saltwater fisheries laws regardless of location within the state (Sec. 50-5-1500 and 50-5-1550). Contact the Charleston License office at (803) 953-9309 for commercial and gill net information.

Nongame Freshwater Fishing Methods & Devices

Some devices are not permitted on certain waters. See Area & Limits on page 22 for devices and limits allowed in each area.

Set Hooks

Description: A single hook and line attached to bushes, limbs, poles, sticks or similar structures.

Permits/Regulations: A permit is required to fish 3 to 50 hooks (50 hook limit). A label bearing the owner's name and address must be attached to each set hook.

Persons 65 years or older or under age 16 are not required to purchase a Set Hook Permit, but a label with their name, address and age must be attached to each set hook. A fishing license is required. A permit is not required for 2 set hooks with a valid state fishing license.

Hours/Seasons: Must be removed prior to one hour after official sunrise each day and cannot be reattached prior to one hour before official sunset.

Jugs

Description: A single hook and line attached to a free-floating device with a minimum capacity of one pint and a maximum of one gallon. May not have more than one line.

Permits/Regulations: A permit is required to fish 3 to 50 jugs (50 jug limit). Licensee's name and address must be clearly marked on each jug. Jug fishing is legal only in Lakes Greenwood, Secession, Richard B. Russell, Thurmond, and Stevens Creek. *A permit is not required for 2 jugs with a valid state fishing license. A jug permit is not required for residents assisting jug permits holders.*

Hours/Seasons: Must be removed from the water before one hour after official sunrise each day and not replaced prior to one hour before official sunset.

Trotlines

Description: 2 or more hooks attached to a line which is rigged horizontally and marked with a white or yellow floating marker (See Markers and Identification on page 20). Stainless steel hooks are prohibited statewide. *Hooks used in Lakes Marion and Moultrie ONLY must measure 7/16 inch or less between point and shank.*

Permits/Regulations: A tag is required for each

trotline with up to 50 hooks. Trotlines with more than 50 hooks requires a tag for every 50 hooks or less. No trotline shall be attached in any manner to another trotline or to the support or float of another trotline. No trotlines allowed within 100 feet of the mouth of any tributary stream.

Hours/Seasons: Trotlines must be inspected and fish removed at least every 24 hours. From Apr. 1 to Oct. 1, no trotline is permitted in any waters from one hour after official sunrise to one hour before official sunset, unless the trotline is sunk to the bottom or a minimum depth of four feet below the surface. From Oct. 2 to Mar. 31, trotlines may be left in the water 24 hours per day at any depth.

Traps & Eel Pots

Description: A device (as described below and on the following page) marked with a white or yellow floating marker (See Markers and Identification on page 20).

Permits/Regulations: A tag is required for each trap or eel pot. A permit is required for the harvest of eels in both freshwater and saltwater. Traps and eel pots may be suspended in water at a depth which does not create a hazard to watercraft. No trap or eel pot shall be placed within 100 feet of the mouth of any tributary stream. No crab pot or trap of like design may be used in the fresh waters of this state.

Hours/seasons: No closed season.

Trap Type 1 - *The trap may be made of wire or textile material and be cylindrical in shape of a length not more than 6 feet and a width of not more than 3 feet. The mesh shall not be smaller than 1 inch by 1 inch, and there shall be only one application of exterior wire to the trap. The muzzle shall have one of the following designs: A trap door on the second muzzle or catch muzzle which remains in a closed position and which only opens for the entry of fish into the trap; or constructed of netting so that the opening of the small end of the second muzzle or catch muzzle is held in the shape of a slit and the trap configuration constructed such that as the trap rests on the bottom, the slit shall be oriented horizontally with the greatest vertical opening being no greater than 1 inch.*

Trap Type 2 - *The trap may be made of wood strips or slats and be cylindrical or rectangular in shape. The length shall not exceed 6 feet, and the width or diameter shall not exceed 2 feet. The throat opening of the catch muzzle in a resting position shall not exceed 3 inches measured in any direction. The sides, top and rear of the trap shall have a minimum of one inch opening between the slats to allow for the escape of small catfish. This shall apply only to the last 12 inches of the trap.*

Eel pot - *Pots no larger than 24 inches by 48 inches and constructed of wire with a mesh size no smaller than 1/2 by 1/2 inch, except for the throat or*

muzzle and the end opposite the throat or muzzle. The throat opening shall not exceed 2 inches measured in any direction.

Hoop Nets

Description: Nets made of textile netting (no wire) of a mesh size between 1 and 2 inches square enclosing a series of round hoops with two or more muzzle openings made of a netting material. The maximum size net allowed is 16 feet by 5 1/2 feet.

Permits/Regulations: Hoop nets must rest on the bottom and cannot be placed within 100 feet of the mouth of any tributary stream.

Hours/Seasons: No closed season.

Gill Nets

Description: Nets with a mesh size greater than 4 1/2 inches stretch mesh. The maximum length is 200 yards and no net, cable, line or other device used for support of the gill net can extend more than halfway across the stream or body of water. Nets must be marked with a white or yellow floating marker (See Markers and Identification).

Permits/Regulations: Gill nets shall be placed on a first-come basis, and no net can be placed within 200 yards of another gill net.

Hours/Seasons: The season for taking nongame fish other than shad and herring is Nov. 1 to Mar. 1 (where authorized) on Wednesdays, Thursdays, Fridays and Saturdays only. Fishing time begins at 12:01 am on Wednesday, and ends at midnight on Saturday.

Other Devices

Descriptions: Devices described in this section may be used in any body of fresh water including tributaries of rivers or creeks except in prohibited areas. A state fishing license is required (Lakes & Reservoir Permits are not valid). Tags are not required.

- **Bows and Arrows, Spears, Gigs & Cast Nets**

- **Skimbow Net** - A hand-operated dip net with the bow constructed of wood or metal with wire or textile netting with a mesh size not greater than 1 1/2 inches square. The bow shall not exceed 6 feet in any direction and may be used only from February through April 30 for shad or herring.

- **Minnow Seine** - Must not be greater than four feet in width by 20 feet in length with a mesh size of not more than 1/4 inch square mesh. It is unlawful to have in possession a minnow seine from 10 PM to official sunrise.

- **Tires** - Must not exceed 20-inch rim. Rules and regulations of power companies may not allow for the placing of tires.

- **Seine** - A net having a stretch mesh of not less than 1 inch and not more than 1 1/2 inches which does not exceed 75 feet in length or 6 feet in depth. It shall be unlawful to anchor a seine and leave it unattended.

Markers and Identification

Trotlines, Traps, Eel Pots and Gill Nets must be marked with a floating marker with a minimum capacity of one pint and a maximum capacity of one gallon or equivalent size and must be made of solid, buoyant material which does not sink if punctured or cracked. The floating markers must be constructed of plastic, PVC Spongex, plastic foam or cork. No hollow buoys or floats including plastic, metal or glass bottles or jugs may be used except manufactured buoys or floats specifically designed for use with nongame fishing devices; these may be hollow if constructed of heavy duty plastic material and approved by the SCDNR. The floating markers must be colored white when used the 1st through the 15th of the month and yellow when used the remainder of the month. The owner's name and address must be marked clearly on each floating marker.

Hoop Nets set on the Congaree River from the I-77 Bridge to the confluence of the Congaree and Wateree rivers must also be marked with the same floating markers as listed above.

Bait

No game fish, live bait or any bait other than bait listed below shall be used with trotlines, set hooks and jugs: soap, doughballs, cut fish (nongame fish cut into at least three equal parts), shrimp, grapes or meat scraps (shall not include insects, worms and other invertebrates).

On the Edisto, Black, Sampit, Big Pee Dee, Little Pee Dee, Lumber and Waccamaw rivers, live nongame fish and bream may be used with single-barbed set hooks and trotlines that have a shank-to-point gap of one and three-sixteenths inches or greater.

On the Black, Big Pee Dee, Little Pee Dee, Lumber and Waccamaw rivers, live nongame fish and bream may be used on trotlines having not more than 20 hooks with a shank-to-point gap of one and three-sixteenths inches.

Game fish used as bait must be included in daily creel limit, 30 bream per day (see pg. 18).

There are no restrictions on the type of bait permissible in traps or eel pots except that no game fish or parts thereof shall be used as bait.

Prohibited Areas

No nongame fishing devices of any kind may be used in SCDNR-managed lakes (as listed on page 18), or waters within Game Zone 1, except in Lakes Hartwell and Keowee and Twelve-Mile Creek.

Prohibited Practices

Possession or use on the freshwaters of this state of any device or gear designed or used to catch nongame fish not authorized by law is prohibited.

Possession of game fish or tackle designed to catch game fish is prohibited while fishing traps, trotlines, or other nongame fish devices except cast nets and bows and arrows.

It is unlawful for any person to tamper with,

fish, or use in any manner the nongame fishing device or gear owned and tagged by another person, or to take from any such device or gear, any fish caught thereon. No fishing device shall be used, placed, set or fished so as to create a hazard to boating.

No trotlines, traps or eel pots shall be placed within 200 yards of any permanent man-made structure on Lakes Marion and Moultrie nor placed anywhere in the Diversion Canal connecting Lakes Marion and Moultrie, the Tailrace Canal nor the area known as the Borrow Pit (also known as "Bar Pit") in Clarendon County.

Penalties

The boat, motor, fishing gear and fish of any person who is charged with unlawfully fishing, using or having in possession a gill net or hoop net on any freshwater lake or reservoir shall be confiscated.

Any person who tampers with any non-game fishing device with intent to damage or to make it ineffective for the purpose of taking fish shall be fined not less than \$100 nor more than \$200 or imprisoned for not more than 30 days, and for stealing a device or fish caught in the device shall be fined not less than \$500 nor more than \$1,000 or imprisoned for not more than 6 months or both.

Upon the conviction of any commercial freshwater fisherman of illegal possession of game fish or the sale or traffic in game fish, SCDNR shall suspend such person's license or privilege to fish in this state for a period of one year.

Up-to-date regulations and information are provided when nongame tags and or permits are purchased. Tags, permits and Commercial Freshwater Fishing License must be purchased from the Columbia Office in person or by writing: FISH TAGS, PO Box 167, Columbia, SC 29202. An application may be obtained at www.dnr.sc.gov or by calling DNR at (803) 734-3833.

Free Fishing Days
June 7 & 8, 2008

TAKE A KID FISHING



NONGAME AREAS & LIMITS

*Described limits are the maximum number of nongame devices allowed per license holder.

Ashepool River:

Set hooks - 50
Eel pots - No limit

Ashley River:

Set hooks - 50
Eel pots - No limit

Big Pee Dee River-See Great Pee Dee River

Black Creek: Darlington, Florence & Chesterfield Cos:

(Lakes Robinson & Prestwood)

Trotlines-150 hooks total*
Nongame gill nets in season
Set hooks-50

Black River:

Trotlines-150 hooks total*
Nongame gill nets in season
Set hooks-50

Broad River: Includes the waters from the North Carolina state line to the confluence of the Broad and Saluda rivers.

Traps 5*
Trotlines-150 hooks total*
Set hooks-50
Seines-1 (from Hwy 34 bridge upstream)

Bull Creek-Horry & Georgetown Counties:

Trotlines-150 hooks total*
Nongame gill nets in season
Eel pots-No limit
Traps-50*

Buffalo Creek:

Seines-1
Bush River-Laurens Co:
Seines-1

Combahee River:

Set hooks-50
Eel pots-No limit

Congaree River: From the Gervais Street Bridge in Columbia to the I-77 Bridge in Columbia.

Traps-50*
Trotlines-2000 hooks total*
Hoop nets-50 w/commercial lic.
Congaree River: From the I-77 Bridge to confluence of the Congaree and Wateree rivers.

Traps-10 max. w/ commercial lic.

Trotlines-2000 hooks total*

Hoop nets-10 w/commercial lic.
(see Markers & Identification)

Set hooks-50

Cooper River: Traps, trotlines, set hooks and eel pots are not permitted upstream from Wadboo Creek

Traps-50*

Trotline-150 hooks total

Fyke Nets-As allowed for eel fishing by regulation

Set hooks-50

Eel pots-No limit

Pump nets-No limit

Coosawhatchie & Tullifinny rivers:

Set hooks-50

Mallards Lake- Dorchester Co:

Nongame gill nets in season

Set hooks-50

Mims Lake: Dorchester Co:

Nongame gill nets in season
Set hooks-50

Shuler Lake: Dorchester Co:

Nongame gill nets in season
Set hooks-50

Woods Lake- Dorchester Co:

Nongame gill nets in season
Set hooks-50

Bridge Lake: Dorchester Co:

Nongame gill nets in season
Set hooks-50

Little Pond Lake: Dorchester Co.:

Nongame gill nets in season
Set hooks-50

Steed's Lake: Dorchester Co:

Nongame gill nets in season
Set hooks-50

John's Hole Lake: Dorchester Co:

Nongame gill nets in season
Set hooks-50

Rock's Lake: Dorchester Co:

Nongame gill nets in season
Set hooks-50

Mouth of Four Holes Lake:

Dorchester Co:
Nongame gill nets in season
Set hooks-50

Durbin Creek:

Seines-1

Edisto River:

Set hooks-50
Eel pots-no limit

Enoree River:

Traps-2
Trotlines-150 hooks total*

Set hooks-50

Seines-1 from Southern Railroad in Greenville Co. downstream

Great Pee Dee River: From I-95 to NC state line.

Traps-50*
Trotlines-2000 hooks total*
Nongame gill nets in season
Set hooks-50
Hoop nets-50 w/commercial lic.
North of SC 34 only

Great Pee Dee River: From I-95 to the saltwater line.

Nongame gill nets in season
Trotlines-150 hooks total*
Set hooks-50
Eel pots-Below Highway 701 bridge only, no limit
Traps-50*

Jefferies Creek: Florence Co:

Nongame gill nets in season
Trotlines-150 hooks total*

Lake Greenwood:

Traps-5*
Trotlines-150 hooks total*

Jugs-50

Lake Hartwell:

Traps-5*
Trotlines-150 hooks total*

Lake Jocassee:

All nongame devices prohibited, including cast nets.

Lake Keowee:

Traps-5*
Trotlines-150 hooks total*

Lakes Marion and Moultrie:

Waters between confluence of Wateree and Congaree rivers and backwaters of Lake Marion are considered a part of Lake Marion.

Traps-50*

Trotlines-2000 hooks total*

Lake Murray:

Traps-5*

Trotlines-150 hooks total*

Lake Richard B. Russell:

Traps-5*

Trotlines-150 hooks total*

Jugs-50

Lake Secession:

Traps-2

Trotlines-150 hooks total*

Jugs-50

Lake Thurmond & Stevens Creek

Reservoir:

Traps-5*

Trotlines-150 hooks total*

Jugs-50

Lake Wateree:

Traps-5*

Trotlines-150 hooks total*

Catawba River: From Lake Wylie Dam to the backwaters of Lake Wateree, including all reservoirs.

Traps-2

Trotlines-150 hooks total*

Set hooks-50

Seines-1 in York Co. only

Lake Wylie:

Traps-5*

Trotlines-150 hooks total*

Little River:

Seines-1 from Mars Bridge in McCormick Co. upstream

Little Pee Dee River:

Trotlines-150 hooks total*
Nongame gill nets in season
Set hooks-50

Log Creek: Edgefield Co:

Seines-1

Long Cane Creek: Above Patterson

Bridge

Seines-1

Louder's Lake: Darlington Co:

Nongame gill nets in season
Set hooks-50

Lumber River:

Trotlines-150 hooks total*
Nongame gill nets in season
Set hooks-50

Lynches River:

Trotlines-150 hooks total*
Nongame gill nets in season
Set hooks-50

Mulberry Creek: Greenwood Co:

Seines-1

New River:

Set hooks-50

Old River:

Set hooks-50
Trotlines-150 hooks total*

Pacolet River:

Traps-2

Set hooks-50

Trotlines-150 hooks total*

Seines-1

Rabon Creek in Laurens Co:

Seines-1

Redbank Creek: Saluda Co. west of Highway 121:

Seines-1

Reedy River:

Traps-2

Set hooks-50

Trotlines-150 hooks total*

Seines-1 from Southern RR in Greenville Co. downstream

Rocky River: Anderson Co:

Seines-1

Salkehatchie River:

Set hooks-50

Saluda River: From Southern RR Trestle in Greenville Co. to backwaters of Lake Greenwood and from Lake Greenwood Dam to backwaters of Lake Murray.

Traps-2

Set hooks-50

Trotlines-150 hooks total*

Seines-1 in Anderson, Laurens and Greenville cos. only except in Anderson Co. seines may be used in river tributaries.

Saluda River: From Lake Murray Dam to the Gervais St. Bridge in Columbia.

Traps-2

Trotlines-150 hooks total*

Sampit River:

Nongame gill nets in season
Traps-50*

Set hooks-50

Santee River: downstream from Wilson Dam on Lake Marion. No nongame gear (except skimbrow nets) allowed upstream of U.S.G.S. Gauging Station 1715 about 2.4 miles below Santee Dam.

Traps-50*

Trotlines-150 hooks total*

Eel pots-No limit

Savannah River: Below Stevens Creek Dam.

Traps-50*

Hoop nets-50 w/commercial lic.

Set hooks-50

Nongame gill nets in season

Trotlines-2000 hooks total*

Eel pots-No limit

Stevens Creek: Above Clark's Hill Bridge.

Seines-1

Thicketty Creek: Cherokee Co.:

Seines-1

Turkey Creek: Edgefield & Greenwood Cos.

Seines-1

Twelve-Mile Creek:

Traps-2

Set hooks-50

Trotlines-150 hooks total*

Tyger River:

Traps-2

Set hooks-50

Trotlines-150 hooks total*

Seines-1

Waccamaw River:

Trotlines-150 hooks total*

Nongame gill nets in season

Set hooks-50

Eel pots-No limit below junction of Big Bull Creek

Warrior Creek: Laurens Co:

Seines-1

Wateree River:

Traps-50*

Set hooks-50

Trotlines-2000 hooks total*

Hoop nets-50 w/commercial lic.

Wilson Creek-Greenwood Co:

Seines-1

General Information

The following laws pertain mainly to noncommercial saltwater fishing, shrimping, crabbing and shellfishing for personal consumption.

Individuals (age 16 and older) harvesting oysters or clams or individuals fishing for marine finfish from privately owned boats or when transporting catch in privately owned boats must purchase an annual or temporary Saltwater Recreational Fisheries License.

Fishing piers and chartered vessels charging a fee for fishing and those offering fishing boats for rent must purchase a Marine Recreational Fisheries license annually. Applications for Pier and Charter Vessel Licenses are available from the DNR office in Charleston.

Any person engaged in selling any fish or fishery product, including bait, must first obtain a license from the Marine Resources Division. Regulations concerning commercial saltwater fishing are provided with commercial licenses and are available through Marine Resources Division at the address below.

For more information contact: SCDNR, Marine Resources Division, P.O. Box 12559, Charleston, SC 29422, (843) 953-9300, www.dnr.sc.gov.

For federal fishery limits and regulations, contact: South Atlantic Fishery Management Council, 4055 Faber Place Drive, Suite 201, North Charleston, SC 29405, (843) 571-4366, www.safmc.net.

Annual License Fees

Saltwater Recreational Fisheries License

Annual Resident License	\$10
Annual Non-Resident License	\$35
Temporary Resident License (14 days) ..	\$5
Temporary Non-Resident License (14 days)	\$11

Shrimp Baiting License

Resident License	\$25
Non-Resident License	\$500

Commercial Pier License (>100 feet) ..\$350

Commercial Pier License (≤100 feet) ..\$150

Charter Vessel License

(6 or less passengers)	\$150
(7-49 passengers)	\$250
(50 or more passengers)	\$350

Rental Boat License

.....\$40

Saltwater Fishing Methods & Devices

Hook and Line

Permits/License: Saltwater Recreational Fisheries License required when fishing from privately owned boats or when transporting catch in privately owned boats. Federal Highly Migratory Species Permit required when fishing for tuna, billfish and swordfish in federal waters

and for possession of these species in state waters. For sharks, a federal permit is only required when fishing in federal waters.

Seasons: No closed season

Restrictions:

- It is unlawful to fish from a boat within 300 feet of commercial fishing piers extending into the Atlantic Ocean.
- Fishing from the shore in the waters under or within 50 feet on either side or beyond the end of any ocean fishing pier in Horry County is prohibited.

Gigging

Permits/Licenses: Saltwater Recreational Fishing License.

Restrictions:

- It is unlawful to gig red drum or spotted seatrout during Dec., Jan. and Feb.
- It is unlawful in Georgetown County to gig for fish in salt waters from the northern tip of North Island to the northern tip of Magnolia Beach during daylight hours.

Bangsticks

- It is unlawful to take, have in one's possession or to land or sell any species of fish taken by means of a bangstick or similar device.

Cast Nets (Other than Shrimp)

Permits/Licenses: Saltwater Recreational Fisheries License.

Seines & Gill Nets

(Anchor, Set, Stake & Drift Nets)

Permits/Licenses:

- Gill nets, haul seines (except shrimp seines under 40 ft.), \$10 for each 100 net ft. or fraction thereof.
- Powerboats transporting nets or other commercial fishing equipment must have vessel decals.

Seasons: No closed season in saltwater; (except shad, sturgeon and herring).

Restrictions:

- Red drum and spotted seatrout may not be taken by nets. Sharks may not be taken by gill nets.
- Gill nets no longer than 100 feet with a 3-inch minimum stretched mesh size may be used only in unrestricted areas of the Atlantic Ocean. Gill nets no longer than 100 yard with 3-inch minimum stretched mesh size may be used only in special designated inshore areas.
- Gill nets must be marked with one end bouy that is international orange in color with the name and address of owner. Operator must be within 500 feet of the net and have visual contact with the net at all times when deployed.
- Nets may not be set more than halfway across any waterway at any time.
- Stationary or fixed nets, including gill nets, may not be set or placed within 600 feet of a net previously set.

• Gill net users must be within 500 feet or hail-ing distance of the net at all times.

• It is unlawful to use any seine or gill net in any waters within a state park; except, small hand seines and cast nets for taking shrimp are allowed.

Size & Catch Limits for Saltwater Fish

TL=Total Length, FL=Fork Length;
AIW=Atlantic Intracoastal Waterway;
State Waters extend from the saltwater-freshwater dividing line to the 3-mile limit.
Federal Waters extend from the 3-mile limit to 200 miles offshore (international waters).

All species in this section must be landed with head and tail intact.

Please note: red type indicates a new legislative change in the regulation.

Sport Fish

Red Drum (Channel Bass/Spottail)

Limit: 3 per person per day (state waters), 0 per person per day (federal waters)

Size: 15-inch minimum (TL) and 23-inch maximum (TL) (state waters)

Seasons/Restrictions:

- May be taken only by rod & reel year-round or by gigging March through November.
- May not be harvested from federal waters. South Carolina native caught fish may not be sold (state waters).

Spotted Seatrout

Limit: 10 per person per day (state waters)

Size: 14-inch minimum (TL) (state waters)

Seasons/Restrictions:

- May be taken only by rod & reel year-round or by gigging March through November.
- South Carolina native caught fish may not be sold (state waters).

Flounders (Southern & Summer & Gulf)

Limit: Rod & reel or gigging only - 20 per person per day, not to exceed 40 per boat per day (state waters)

Size: 14-inch minimum (TL) (state waters)

Seasons/Restrictions:

- Size limits apply to both recreational & commercial fishing.

Striped Bass, Hybrid Bass, and Combinations

Limit: 10 per person per day except 5 per day in Wando & Cooper rivers and Santee River downstream to the AIW; 2 per day in Savannah River saltwaters. See page 17.

Size: None in saltwaters, **except** 21-inch (TL) minimum in the Wando & Cooper rivers and Santee River above the AIW; 27-inch (TL) minimum in Savannah River saltwaters. See page 17.

Seasons/Restrictions:

- May be taken only by rod & reel year-round & may not be sold (state waters).

Bluefish

Limit: 15 per person per day (all waters)

Size: No size limit

Seasons/Restrictions: No closed season

King Mackerel

Limit: 3 per person per day (all waters)

Size: 24-inch minimum (FL) (all waters)

Seasons/Restrictions:

- March 1 to February 28, fishery may be closed to all harvest if total allowable catch is exceeded (state & federal waters).

Spanish Mackerel

Limit: 15 per person per day (all waters)

Size: 12-inch minimum (FL) (all waters)

Seasons/Restrictions:

- March 1 to February 28, fishery may be closed to all harvest if total allowable catch is exceeded (state & federal waters).

Cobia

Limit: 2 per person per day (all waters)

Size: 33-inch minimum (FL) (all waters)

Seasons/Restrictions:

- No closed season

Tarpon

Limit: 1 per person per day (state waters)

Size: No size limit

Seasons/Restrictions:

- May be taken only by rod & reel & may not be sold.

Greater Amberjack

Limit: 1 per person per day (all waters)

In April, 1 per vessel per trip

Size: 28-inch minimum (FL) (all waters)

Seasons/Restrictions:

- Commercial harvest restrictions during April. Prohibits sale of fish harvested under bag limit when season is closed.

Sheepshead, Spadefish

Catch Limit: No more than 20 per person per day in aggregate with the snapper grouper complex species listed on this page.

Seasons/Restrictions: No closed season

Dolphin

Limits: 10 per person or 60 per boat per day (all waters); headboats have no boat limit.

Size: No size limit

Seasons/Restrictions: No closed season

Wahoo

Limits: 2 per person per day

Size: No size limit

Seasons/Restrictions: No closed season

New this year

* Black Drum

Limit: 5 per person per day (state waters)

Size: 14-inch minimum (TL) and 27-inch maximum (TL) (state waters)

Seasons/Restrictions: No closed season

* Weakfish

Limit: 10 per person per day (state waters)

Size: 12-inch minimum (TL) (state waters)

Seasons/Restrictions: No closed season

* Hardhead Catfish and Gafftopsail Catfish (Saltwater Catfish)

Limit: Possession is prohibited.

Seasons/Restrictions: No open season. If caught, must be released immediately.

Atlantic Tunas

Yellowfin Tuna

Limit: 3 per person per day.

Size: 27-inch minimum (FL)

Seasons/Restrictions:

- Federal Permit required.

Bigeye, Bluefin Tuna

Limits: Check current Federal Regulations by calling 1-888-USA-TUNA (1-888-872-8862) or checking www.nmfspermits.com.

Size: 27-inch minimum (FL)

Seasons/Restrictions:

- Check current Federal Regulations by calling 1-888-USA-TUNA (1-888-872-8862) or checking www.nmfspermits.com.
- Federal Permit required.

Albacore, Skipjack

Limit: None

Size: No size limit

Seasons/Restrictions:

- Federal Permit required.

Porgies & Snappers

Red Porgy

Seasons/Restrictions:

- 3 per person per day.
- 14-inch minimum (TL).

Vermilion Snapper

Limit: 10 per person per day (all waters) (recreational)

Size: 12-inch minimum (TL) recreational and commercial size limit

Seasons/Restrictions:

- No closed season

Other Snappers

(Excluding Vermilion)

Red Snapper	20-inch minimum (TL) No closed season
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Lane Snapper	8-inch minimum (TL) No closed season
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Black Snapper	No size limit No closed season
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Blackfin, Cubera, Dog, Yellowtail, Gray, Mahogany, Silk, Schoolmaster & Queen Snapper	12-inch minimum (TL) No closed season
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Mutton Snapper	16-inch minimum (TL) No closed season
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Limit:

- 10 per person per day from this group (including all snapper species except Vermilion), and no more than 2 Red Snapper may be included in the total (state & federal waters).

Hogfish

Limit: None

Size: 12-inch minimum (FL) (all waters)

Seasons/Restrictions:

- No closed season

Sea Bass, Grouper & Tilefish

Black Seabass

Limit: 15 per person per day (recreational; all waters)

Size: 12-inch minimum (TL) (recreational; all waters); 10-inch minimum (TL) (commercial; all waters)

Seasons/Restrictions:

- June 1-May 31

Grouper, Tilefish Combinations

Gag & Black Grouper	24-inch minimum (TL)
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Scamp, Red, Yellowfin & Yellowmouth Groupers	20-inch minimum (TL)
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Snowy Grouper

Yellowedge Grouper

Golden Tilefish No size limit

Sand Tilefish

Blueline Tilefish

Limits:

- 5 per person per day from this group; no more than 2 Gag or Black Groupers or more than 1 Snowy Grouper or Golden Tilefish may be included in this total (state & federal waters).

Restrictions:

- No closed season

Warsaw, Speckled Hind Groupers

Limit: 1 warsaw and 1 speckled hind per vessel per trip

Size: No size limit

Seasons/Restrictions:

- No closed season

Nassau Grouper, Goliath

Limit: Possession is prohibited

Seasons/Restrictions:

- No open season

All Other Snapper Grouper Complex Species Combined

Species: Including but not limited to: **Gray, Queen and Ocean Triggerfish; Whitebone, Knobbed, Jolthead, Saucereye, Grass and Longspine Porgies; Scup, Sheepshead, Almaco, Bar, Crevalle and Yellow Jacks; Lesser Amberjack; Banded Rudderfish; Bluespotted, White, Smallmouth, French and Spanish grunts; Black Margate; Margate; Porkfish; Cottonwick; Sailors Choice; Spadefish; Puddingwife; Bank Sea Bass; Rock Sea Bass**

Limit: 20 per person per day from this group

Size: No size limit

Seasons/Restrictions:

- Bluerunners and tomtates are excluded from the bag limit.
- No closed season.

Sharks

Permits/Licenses: Federal Highly Migratory Species Permit required in federal waters.

Dogfish (Spiny & Smooth)

Limit: None (all waters)

Size: No size limit

Atlantic Sharpnose

Limit: 1 per person per day (federal waters)

2 per person per day (state waters)

Size: No size limit

Bonnethead

Limit: 1 per person per day (all waters)

Size: No size limit

Sandbar, Silky, Blacktip, Spinner, Bull, Tiger, Lemon, Nurse, Scalloped Hammerhead, Great Hammerhead, Smooth Hammerhead, Blacknose, Finetooth, Shortfin Mako, Thresher, Porbeagle, Oceanic Whitetip and Blue Sharks

Limit: 1 shark per boat per trip from this group.

Size: 54-inch minimum (FL)

Sand Tiger, Bigeye Sand Tiger, Whale, Basking, White, Dusky, Bignose, Galapagos, Night, Caribbean Reef, Narrowtooth, Caribbean Sharpnose, Smalltail, Atlantic Angel, Longfin Mako, Bigeye Thresher, Sevengill, Sixgill and Bigeye Sixgill Sharks

Limit: Possession is prohibited

Seasons/Restrictions:

- No open season. Sharks from this group may not be kept. If caught, sharks from this group must be released immediately.

Special Information

Special Management Zones - The following Artificial Reefs have been declared "Special Management Zones" and are protected by federal regulations: *BP-25, Beaufort 45, Betsy Ross, Bill Perry, C.J. Davidson, Cape Romain, Capers, Charleston 60, Comanche, Eagles Nest, Edisto 40,*

Edisto 60, Edisto Offshore, Fripp Island, Georgetown, Greenville, Hilton Head, Hunting Island, Kiawah, Little River Offshore, North Inlet, Paradise, Pawley's Island, Ten Mile, Vermilion, Wayne Upchurch, Will Goldfinch and Y-73. Fishing may be conducted only with hook and line gear and spearfishing gear (excluding powerheads). The use of fish traps, longlines, gill nets, and trawls is prohibited. Powerheads (bangsticks) are prohibited except for safety purposes. It is unlawful to possess, land, or sell any species of fish taken with a bangstick (reef and non-reef areas).

Unlawful to Sell Gamefish - The following species have been declared gamefish and native caught fish may not be sold; red drum (channel bass), spotted seatrout, striped bass and tarpon. The purchase, barter, trade, or sale of billfish, including marlin, sailfish and spearfish, is unlawful regardless of where taken or landed. Swordfish may be sold under commercial laws only.

Prohibited Practices - The use of dynamite, gun powder, lime or any other explosive in or about any waters of this state is unlawful.

It is unlawful to sell or offer for sale any sea turtles or to offer for sale, sell or destroy any sea turtle eggs. Sea turtles are protected by the Federal Endangered Species Act. It is unlawful to display, feed, net, trap, harpoon, molest or otherwise interfere with the well-being or normal activity of marine mammals of the orders Cetacea, Sirenia and Pinnipedia, including but not limited to bottlenose dolphin, spotted dolphin, common dolphin, manatee, porpoise, harbor seal and any species of whale in any waters of the state. Marine mammals are also protected by federal law.

Billfish

Federal Highly Migratory Species Permit required

Blue Marlin

Size: 99-inch minimum (FL) (all waters)

Seasons/Restrictions:

- May be taken only by rod & reel and may not be sold.

White Marlin

Size: 66-inch minimum (FL) (all waters)

Seasons/Restrictions:

- May be taken only by rod & reel and may not be sold.

Sailfish

Limit: None

Size: 63-inch minimum (FL) (all waters)

Seasons/Restrictions:

- May be taken only by rod & reel and may not be sold.

Swordfish

Limit: 1 per person per day up to 3 per vessel per trip

Size: 47-inch minimum from lower jaw (FL) (state & federal waters)

Seasons/Restrictions:

- May be taken only by rod & reel. Recreationally taken fish may not be sold.

Sturgeon & Shad

Shortnose sturgeon

Limit: Possession is prohibited

Seasons/Restrictions:

- Unlawful to catch, buy, sell, possess or ship. Classified as an endangered species.

Atlantic sturgeon

Limit: Possession is prohibited (state waters)

Seasons/Restrictions:

- No open season until further notice. Unlawful to catch, buy, sell, possess or ship.

American Shad, Herring

Limit: 10 Shad per person per day except in Santee River and Rediversion canal (20 per person per day).

1 U.S. bushel of Herring per person per day.

Size: No size limit

Seasons/Restrictions:

- No closed season for recreational fishing with castnet or hook & line, including rod & reel. Skimbow nets allowed Feb. 1 through Apr. 30. Gill nets allowed as for commercial use.

Shrimp Harvesting

Catch Limits for Shrimp

Certain exemptions apply to permitted charter vessels and licensed bait dealers. For information contact SCDNR, Marine Resources Division, P.O. Box 12559, Charleston, SC 29422 or call 843-953-9312.

Taking Shrimp Without Bait

Permits/Licenses: None for personal use

Limits/Seasons:

- Daily catch 48 quarts whole or 29 quarts headed shrimp per boat, per person if no boat is used, or per seining party. May 1 - Dec. 15.
- 12 dozen dead or live shrimp per boat Dec. 16 through April 30.

Shrimp Baiting

Permits/Licenses: Shrimp Baiting License and pole marker tags required. A license is not required for residents assisting license holders. Licenses available Monday of second full week in June.

Seasons: 60-day period set by SCDNR beginning at 12:00 noon on the last Friday on or before Sept. 15. Call 843-953-9312 for season dates.

Limits:

- Daily catch 48 quarts whole or 29 quarts headed per boat, per person if no boat is used, or per seining party.

Restrictions:

- Shrimp caught over bait cannot be sold.
- No more than 10 poles can be used per license per day. Poles may not exceed 1-inch in diameter

and must have a numbered tag attached which corresponds with the shrimp baiting license. Each pole must also be marked with reflective tape.

- No more than 10 poles can be used per boat.
- All poles of a licensed set must be within 100 linear yards of each other and sets of poles must be at least 25 yards apart. Poles may not be set within 50 yards of any dock, public landing or boat ramp. Unattended poles will be confiscated.
- Owners of private docks or persons with written permission may bait from those docks once properly licensed and with numbered tag displayed.
- Shrimp pots or traps are prohibited.
- Individuals who are: 1) owners or officers of a corporation which owns a vessel specified on a trawl license; 2) masters of a vessel specified on a trawl license application; 3) licensed to use a channel net; 4) licensed to use a cast net for a commercial purpose; or 5) licensed as a wholesale seafood dealer may not obtain a shrimp baiting license.
- Cast nets used for taking shrimp over bait must have a minimum mesh size of ½ inch square (1 inch stretch).

Shrimp Seines

Permits/Licenses: None for personal use

Seasons: No closed season

Restrictions:

- Maximum length of shrimp seine 40 feet, maximum depth 6 feet, minimum mesh size, ½ inch square (1 inch stretch), maximum mesh size ⅞ inch (1.75 inch stretch).
- Tail bags or pockets are not allowed on seines when pulled by hand.
- Staked seines are considered commercial channel net devices; allowances and restrictions are provided with the purchase of a commercial license.
- One limit per seine per day.

Trawling

Permits/Licenses: Commercial Saltwater Fishing License, Vessel Decal, and Gear License required.

Restrictions: Trawling for personal use is restricted to the same license requirements,

areas and seasons as commercial trawling. This information is provided with license.

Crab, Lobster & Shellfish Harvesting

Blue Crabs

Limit: None (state waters)

Size: 5-inch minimum carapace width (point to point)

Restrictions:

- Females with egg mass (sponge) must be returned to water unharmed immediately.
- For recreational purposes no more than two traps (pots) per person with owner's name and address marked on yellow floats only.

Stone Crabs

Limit: None (state waters)

Size: Claws must be 2¾-inch minimum forearm (propodus)

Restrictions:

- Only crabs with 2 claws may have one removed.
- Only the larger of two claws may be kept.
- It is unlawful to possess any stone crab body, live or dead.
- No claw may be removed from a female with egg mass.

Spiny Lobster

Limit: 2 per person per day (all waters)

Size: Carapace must be over 3 inches

Restrictions:

- No closed season.
- Removal of tail at sea prohibited.
- No harvest of berried females is allowed.
- No explosives, poisons, spears, or piercing devices other than fishing hooks are allowed.

Oysters

Limit: 2 U.S. bushels per person per day from public or state shellfish grounds. No boat or vehicle, or boat and vehicle combination may contain more than three personal limits regardless of the number of persons on the boat or in the vehicle. In order to possess three personal limits there must be three persons on the boat or in the vehicle. If there are four or more persons on the boat or in the vehicle there is a maximum possession limit of three personal limits.

Size: No Limit

Restrictions:

- Season typically Sept. 16 through May 15; may be shortened or extended by the DNR.
- A person may harvest shellfish (clams and/or oysters) recreationally no more than two days per seven day period.

Permits/Licenses: Saltwater Recreational Fishing License required.

Clams

Limit: ½ U.S. bushel per person per day from public or state shellfish grounds. No boat or vehicle, or boat and vehicle combination may contain more than three personal limits regardless of the number of persons on the boat or in the vehicle. In order to possess three personal limits there must be three persons on the boat or in the vehicle. If there are four or more persons on the boat or in the vehicle there is a maximum possession limit of three personal limits.

Size: 1-inch minimum thickness

Restrictions:

- Season typically Sept. 16 through May 15; may be shortened or extended by the DNR.
- A person may harvest shellfish (clams and/or oysters) recreationally no more than two days per seven day period.

Permits/Licenses: Saltwater Recreational Fishing License required.

Shell Recycling:

Oyster shells are collected throughout the coastal area and reused for shellfish culture. Call (843) 953-9300 for shell drop-off site locations, or visit saltwaterfishing.sc.gov/oyster.html for detailed maps of locations.

Crab & Shellfish Methods & Devices

Crab Pots (Traps)

Permits/Licenses: None for up to two pots. A Commercial Saltwater Fishing License, Vessel Decal, and Gear License are required for over two pots. (Other information is provided with licenses.)

Seasons: No closed season

Restrictions:

- If unattended, each pot must bear name or license number of owner.

**South Carolina Department
of Natural Resources**
has a new fish tag reporting number

1-888-Tags-4-SC
1-888-824-7472



**When you catch any fish tagged
by SCDNR, please call and report:**

- | | |
|--|----------------|
| • Your Name | • Location |
| • Date | • Species |
| • Telephone Number
(with area code) | • Tag Number |
| | • Total Length |

- No crab pot shall be left unattended in coastal waters more than 5 days.
- No crab trap or pot may be set within 100 yards of a public boat landing or launching area or set so as to be left dry at low tide.
- A float attached to a crab pot or trap must be made of solid, buoyant material which does not sink upon being punctured or cracked. The floats must be constructed of plastic, PVC Spongex, plastic foam, or cork. The primary float for a recreational pot or trap must be yellow in color and at least ten inches in length if rectangular, cylindrical, or conical and at least five inches in diameter or width. Round or spherical floats must be at least six inches in diameter. Buoy lines for crab pots must be made of nonfloating material.



Gathering Shellfish (Oysters & Clams)

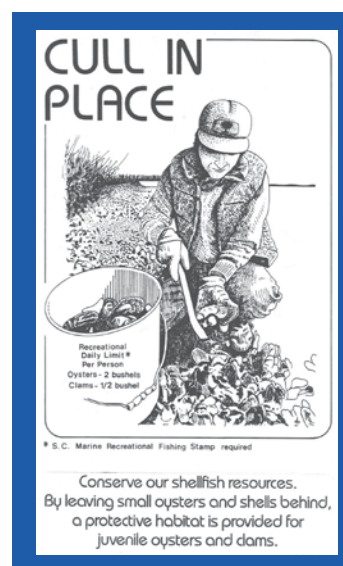
Permits/Licenses: Saltwater Recreational Fishing License required.

Seasons: Typically Sept. 16 through May 15 (½ hour before sunrise to ½ hour after sunset)

Restrictions:

- Shellfish may be harvested recreationally from State shellfish grounds and Public shellfish grounds. Most Public and State shellfish grounds are marked with signs. Recreational harvesting is allowed on culture permit grounds (formerly leases), but only when the harvester has in possession, written permission from the culture permit holder. License must be in possession while harvesting.

Maps of areas where oysters and clams may be gathered in season for recreation may be found on the web at www.dnr.sc.gov or by writing Marine Resources at PO Box 12559, Charleston, SC 29422.



Don't be confused



Weakfish



Spotted Seatrout

As noted in the regulations information, weakfish and spotted seatrout, two species with similar appearances, have different size limits, 12-inches Total Length, and 14-inches Total Length respectively. To avoid angler confusion, biologists note a distinct characteristic between these two species is the rounded black spots visible on the spotted seatrout's body and fins.



Use Circle Hooks

Anglers are reminded of the conservation benefits of using circle hooks. Because of their unique design, circle hooks almost always hook fish in the mouth, whereas other hooks are more likely to hook fish in the gut or gills. Fish hooked in the gut or gills will often die of injuries shortly after being released. By practicing catch and release with circle hooks, the fish that you release will help to conserve South Carolina's fish populations.

SHRIMP BAITING LICENSE APPLICATION South Carolina Department of Natural Resources

Social Security No. _____

Name _____

Mailing Address _____

City/State/Zip _____

County _____ Telephone _____

Drivers License No. _____ State _____

Date of Birth _____ Gender (M) (F) Race _____

I understand that persons whose recreational privileges are suspended are not eligible to apply for, hold, or use SCDNR recreational licenses, permits, stamps, or tags.

Signature _____ Date _____

Please complete the above information, sign and return with the appropriate fee to the mailing address above.

Note: Applications with incomplete information will not be processed and will be returned to the applicant.

Residents: Submit \$25.00 check or money order payable to SCDNR with application. (Non-residents, \$500.00 Cashiers Check or Money Order only.)

SCDNR License Office:

PO Box 167
Columbia, SC 29202
(803) 734-3833

P.O. Box 12559
Charleston, SC 29422
(843) 953-9312



DNR

2007 Saltwater Recreational Fisheries License Report

Introduction

The South Carolina Recreational Fisheries License Program, since its inception in July 1992, has provided significant benefits to the state. Allocated funds continue to support programs, activities, and resource management functions that are of great value to the protection, maintenance, enhancement, and enjoyment of healthy and diverse marine recreational fisheries, associated fish stocks, and marine habitats. The original Marine Recreational Fishing Stamp program was modified in 2002 to give South Carolina resident and out-of-state anglers a variety of license options to choose from. The modification has allowed for revenues to double, which provides additional support for activities important to state saltwater recreational anglers.

As of May 2007, approximately 1,415,457 individual saltwater stamps/licenses have been sold to marine recreational anglers over the course of the program's existence. Between 1992 and 2002, over 48,000 individual saltwater fishing stamps have been sold to collectors, and nearly 13,000 prints of the original artwork for these stamps have been sold to art collectors and conservationists. Since July 2007, 119,255 individual saltwater recreational licenses of all available types have been purchased, resulting in the generation of approximately \$1.16 million total, the vast majority of which by law must be used to benefit saltwater recreational fisheries for the state. The following are highlights of the activities, projects and programs carried out by the Marine Resources Division that received support from the Saltwater Recreational Fisheries License Program over this past fiscal year.

FY 2007 Highlights

Artificial Reefs – Nineteen artificial reef construction projects were completed on permitted reef sites along the coast during the year, including the addition of 4 tug boats, 2 deck barges, 600 concrete reef units, 37 armored personnel carriers and 8 reef balls. In addition to these activities, the Cooper River Bridge Demolition Project concluded with 25 additional deployments of material during the past fiscal year. Over 240,000 tons of concrete and steel bridge rubble from the demolished Cooper River Bridges was placed on 12 different permitted reef sites. Additionally, 5,000 tons of smaller sized rubble were placed around the new Mt. Pleasant Observation/Fishing Pier to create an inshore reef accessible to pier anglers. Routine monitoring and assessment of numerous reefs were conducted, and 5 new or missing reef buoys were deployed on estuarine and offshore reefs. The new SC artificial reef guide, which includes detailed maps with coordinate locations, was completed and distributed to numerous tackle and dive shops as well as to various fishing clubs throughout the state. – \$157.6K

Marine Fish – SCDNR's Marine Gamefish Tagging Program continues to promote angler ethics and conservation through the support of license-generated funds. Last year, participants tagged 1,795 fish. Information was received from 225 recaptured fish. The top species tagged and released was red drum, followed by weakfish, reflecting a change in tagging effort toward species where more data are needed. Another important component in SCDNR's effort to maintain high quality fishing opportunities is our effort to monitor recreationally important species. Staff collect size, age, and reproductive information from a variety of species. Information is collected using gear designed to catch and record data in a standardized, repeatable fashion using long-lines to catch large adult red drum offshore, trammel nets to catch smaller juvenile red and black drum, flounder, sheepshead, and seatrout inshore, and electro-shocking in estuarine waters farther upstream. SCDNR fisheries biologists also visit fishing tournaments and manage fish drop-off freezers in several locations where participating anglers can donate specimens for scientific study. Over the past year, staff visited 4 fishing tournaments and obtained useful biological information on 362 fish. Recreational anglers donated 265 additional fish through the drop-off freezer program, and returned

tags from 523 fish that were tagged by SCDNR biologists. Another useful and popular program supported through saltwater recreational fisheries license funds is SCDNR's red drum stocking research program. Time and patience are necessary for managing a healthy brood stock and conditioning them to spawn on cue. Larvae that are produced must then be carefully maintained in ponds or tanks, marked so they can later be identified as hatchery-raised fish, and then transported to the stocking area. During FY2007, over 1.9 million red drum were released as part of a license funded project. Specifically, 1,943,905 small juvenile fish were released in the Colleton and North Edisto rivers; 5,000 six to thirteen-inch fish were released at Bennett's Point and Wiggins boat landing; 1,000 thirteen-inch fish were stocked in the Little River Inlet; and 500 legal sized fish (>15 inches) were released in the Ashley River. Non-lethal sampling using cutting edge genetic techniques are being used to distinguish between wild and stocked fish, allowing fish to be caught by other anglers another day. Additionally, this project has expanded its cooperating angler program, which now includes 253 anglers who have produced 750 genetic samples. An effort to monitor populations of various species of coastal sharks was continued this year with sampling conducted from Winyah Bay to Port Royal Sound. The data collected from this project will help increase our understanding of the importance of SC estuaries to maintain healthy stocks of various shark species and the dynamics and movements of these populations. Additionally, a recreational fisheries survey was conducted to learn more about the opinions and attitudes of saltwater license holders towards finfish stocks and regulations. – \$421.7K

Oysters – Over 43,167 bushels of shell were planted on 7 public and state shellfish grounds during FY2007. Eighteen shell recycling sites, located throughout the coastal zone, continue to serve as collection points for donated shell, allowing the public to participate in oyster reef restoration and enhancement in recreational harvesting areas. SCDNR biologists are also testing new and better ways to enhance and restore local shellfish beds. Researchers are testing different ways to place shell on banks, covering some of the shell with different materials to reduce erosion and are using volunteers to build and monitor oyster reefs in different areas and under different conditions. Additionally, license money has helped researchers expand their statewide assessment of oyster recruitment. Shellfish maps are available to the public free of charge by writing: Recreational Shellfish Maps, Shellfish Management Program, SCDNR, P.O. Box 12559, Charleston, SC 29442-2559, by calling (843) 953-9854, or from the SCDNR Web site (www.dnr.sc.gov), click on "Marine", then "SC Public Shellfish Grounds." – \$273K

Education, Information, Outreach – The saltwater license website ([HTTP://SALTWATERFISHING.SC.GOV](http://SALTWATERFISHING.SC.GOV)) continues to provide the public with updated information on rules and regulations and saltwater fishing related news. The website averages about 75,000 hits per month. The Coastal Informational Distribution System (CIDS) continues to distribute educational publications to numerous tackle shops, fishing piers, and marinas along the coast. The Carolina Coastal Discovery (CCD) Marine Education Program continues to provide vessel and land based education activities operating out of the Marine Resources Division and SCDNR facilities in the Ashepoo-Combahee-Edisto (ACE) Basin, conducting nearly 90 education programs in FY2007. The CCD Program's education initiatives included marine animal dissections, a shorebird and waterfowl program, barrier island activities, catch and release angling programs, and a volunteer Monofilament Recycling Program. Additionally, CCD helped launch a new Public Event Series to help reflect ongoing research and management projects of the SCDNR, including highlighting various license-funded projects. CCD Program information and application forms are now available online at www.dnr.sc.gov/ccd/ – \$130K

